

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 have been objected to for the reasons set forth in paragraph 3 of the Examiner's Office Action. As the Examiner will note, original claims 1-7 have been amended to eliminate the Examiner's objection, and accordingly it is believed that this objection has been eliminated.

The specification has been objected to as not providing proper antecedent basis for subject matter recited in claim 2 of the present application. As the Examiner will note, the specification has been amended to provide the proper antecedent basis referred to by the Examiner.

Claims 1-7 have been objected to by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note, all the claims in the present application have been reviewed and amended where necessary to provide the proper antecedent basis requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is believed that this rejection has been eliminated.

It is noted that the Examiner has indicated that original claims 1 - 7 are considered to contain allowable subject matter if amended to eliminate the formal rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As the Examiner will note, all the claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner, and in addition, claims 8 and 9 have been added to the present application. Since all the claims of the present application are dependent from claim 1, which the Examiner has indicated as containing allowable subject matter, it is now believed that the present application is in condition for allowance and accordingly reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joseph A. Kolasch (Reg. No. 22,463) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

Appl. No. 09/446,691  
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overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

(Rev. 02/12/01)